

# Point Three



The Toc H magazine  
November 1981 10p



**PROJECTS 1981**

(pages 7-9)



# Point Three

Editor: Frank Rice MA MA FBIM

Designer: Sybil A Chick

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Point Three is available from the Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Single copies 10p. Annual subscription: £1.20 including postage.



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House — the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points — to think fairly.

## Cover Picture

One of the youngsters enjoying the SE Essex Camp which looks like becoming an annual event.

Photo: Evening Echo

# Personal View

If we believe that 'Jesus is for everyone', how are we to act on that belief? If we don't act on it, then the belief will fade. Christianity is not a body of abstract truths but a practical response whose nature is determined in and by the context in which it has to work. Belief plus action equals ministry.

Once we say that Jesus is for everyone, then the scale of our activity becomes apparent. That is why the Toc H ministry is not just invested in staff but in all of us. If our concept of ministry is small, then our action will be small. If our action is small, we shall not be offering an opportunity to everyone to come to a personal decision about Christ. Ministry is an activity in which all who believe in Christ must engage — not in sporadic fashion but in full time commitment wherever they live, work or play. Limit ministry to a few and you cannot subscribe to the notion of Jesus being for everyone.

Concentrate the focus of ministry on to one or two members of staff, and we undermine its continuity. People come and go. If we, in a Christian community, come to rely solely upon an individual, then, when he leaves us, there is a break in the ministry: breaks of that kind are hard to mend. To preserve continuity of ministry, we should ensure that no-one is seen as indispensable. Only when we strive to make ourselves unnecessary will our activity be tempered by humility and only then shall we achieve continuity.

To appoint full time staff with primary responsibility for our ministry within a fixed geographical area can weaken the responsibility that all members have. There is a tendency to think of ministry as some special activity superimposed on life: something extra which only the 'professionals' can exercise. No: every moment of Christian life in the world is ministry. Nothing I have said is meant to lessen the importance of the work of staff but I am suggesting that there should be changes in their traditional role. If the wider concept of ministry is necessary to our Lord's work on earth, then the increase in the number of people involved will require the support of a sympathetic pastor, expert in co-ordination, education, guidance and communication. The new perspective will require the dedicated work of a servant who is readily accessible, constantly available, prepared through his education and experience to advise and encourage. The picture that I have of a Christian community in the world today is not that of a chain of responsibility where strong forces on either side of a weak link eventually cause the chain to break under strain. It is more like a bundle of sticks: each stick represents a member of the community so weak in itself that it can easily be broken by the weakest forces but when the sticks are bound together by a cord of love, they become too strong to break.

If we believe that Jesus is for everyone, then we are faced with an enormous task. We must therefore make the utmost use of all our resources — spiritual, human and physical. Moreover, this new concept of ministry is bound to make heavy demands on us all. We all need to grow in our faith, for not to do so would be to decline in our effectiveness as God's witnesses. But we also need to be in close fellowship one with another so that we can gain that mutual support which is essential in a Christian community.

It must follow that the Christian should strive to be as efficient as possible. I am sure that we do try to be efficient but I don't think that we are always successful. This is mainly due to the vain attempt we have made to reconcile our structural inheritance and accumulated resources to present day needs. It is also due to our present society and this springs from fear of the personal insecurity which accompanies change. But if our ministry is to be efficient, we must break away from historical constraints. This is true of the use of our human resources and I think it is just as true of our physical resources.

Only the best is good enough for Christ's work. We have an obligation to see that the resources He has given us are fit for Him. All our resources must be fully demi-dilapidated. If we cannot be fully functional if we are semi-spiritual, hemi-human and

If we accept that 'Jesus is for everyone' then changes must be made to the resources we have to carry out His ministry. Let us become fully functional — not for the operation of some system — not for our own glorification — not for the expression of our whims and fancies — not for our own physical comfort — but for the 'Kingdom of God' here on earth. Holding on to our financial assets will not change a single heart for Christ. But using these assets for Him by making them more accessible — particularly to those who are not yet of His Kingdom; making them more efficient and effective for His purposes; that could bring us much nearer to a comprehensive ministry which not only proclaims the belief that Jesus is for everyone, but acts on it.

A E Dudman





The 'Wall-rus' and the Carpenter at this year's Leeds District garden party.



In June, and again in September, Kendal Joint Branch brought parties down to Derbyshire where Bakewell Branch, making full use of the Medway Centre, supplemented their packed lunches by supplying tea and soft drinks.



When a local council was unable to act quickly, Sevenoaks Toc H stepped in – literally – to clear effluent from 26 neighbouring houses, which had flooded the garden of a blind, chairbound woman. Congratulations, Sevenoaks!



A group from Talbot House, Seghill, held a joint camp at Ullswater with youngsters from Newbottle Craft Workshop. Possibilities for further co-operation between these two groups of young people are being explored.



# Bring Happiness into your Life

by Cyril Kohler

Happiness can be as elusive as that imagined something at the converging end of two straight lines. Walk towards it; it never seems any nearer. Reach out for it, but it can never be grasped. True happiness is the product of that dreamed up land called 'Utopia' . . . Or is it? I believe it all depends on what you consider should constitute the most sought after treasure this side of Paradise. How many of us really know what we are looking for?

It would be the natural thing to go to the bookshelf, take down that seldom used book called the Dictionary, and look up the meaning of the word 'happiness'. Well, you needn't bother because I have already looked at the dictionary meaning: 'A period of time when the state of the mind gives joy'. But, what is joy? We could go on for ever breaking down each detail, but this is one word the dictionary fails to give an answer to. The only answer is within oneself.

We could read a daily newspaper from beginning to end, picking out with envious eyes that shining car, the bigger and better house, a television set, or a washing machine, in fact any of the many things that are advertised to induce spending. There is, no doubt, certain joy in the possession of *all* material benefits, but this kind of happiness soon fades, and again the quest is on. The search, never ending, is one continual 'what next?' You look around for an inspiration and glance at the Joneses next door, but this reveals that you are already 'one up' on them.

This in no way means that it is wrong to wish for and possess material goods. Man was talented for the very reason of improving the standard of living; to give pleasure by his inventions and ingenuity.

Cyril — a member of Woking Joint Branch — is paralysed from the neck down and, as he explains in the course of this article, types by sucking and blowing on a mouthpiece attached to his electric typewriter.

— Editor

If this was not so we would still be living in the Stone Age. But man was talented for another, more intimate reason: to bring happiness to himself. We are born with an ego, and man, with an ego satisfied, is a happy man. That pride within us which we call our ego can be satisfied only by exercising our given talents. And if you think you were the unlucky one who was born without talent of any kind, you'll have to think again: there's no such animal!

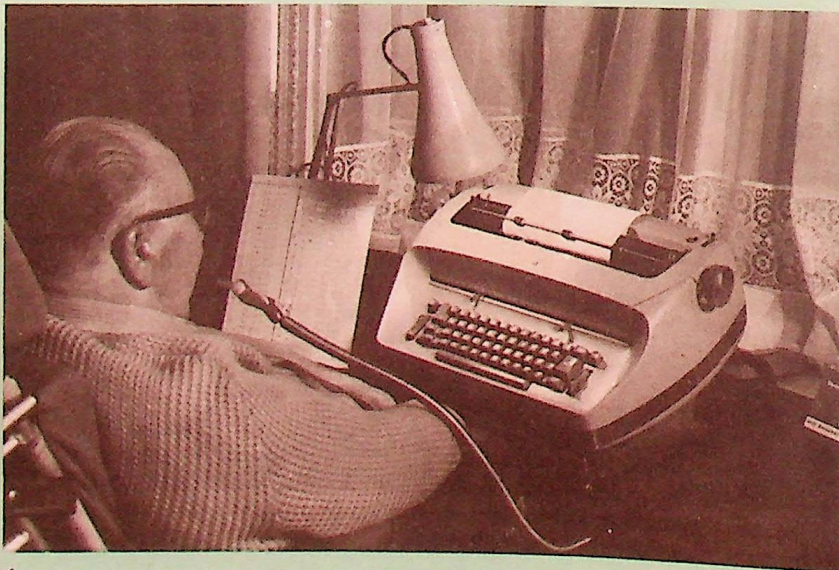
Watch any child when it first struggles to walk. First it stands. Then you join in the excitement when, with great pride, it takes that first step. See it especially when that child, now a toddler, runs around exercising the talent of co-ordination between mind and muscle. That is an endowed gift: the gift of controlled movement and the basis of all talents. For that child, now running around, the world is a better place. Happiness is in the making. The enjoyment of freedom is assured.

Then there is the other end of the scale. Ask any old-age pensioner where his store of happiness lies. Never will he talk about 'the Joneses next door'; he lost pace with that race a long time ago. Instead, with a widening smile, he will talk about the past. The work he did; the achievements he made. The memory of these things is the store he can draw from any time he wishes. And the best of it is that it cost him nothing: the talents he was endowed with were a free gift from God.

Why do I say all these things? How is it they have focused themselves on my mind? I think we all have a special viewpoint on life and, mostly, it is governed by our circumstances. My circumstances are not unique but they are are, perhaps, uncommon. I am a tetraplegic (paralysed from the neck down) and have experienced the life of normally-abled people. I, too, have searched for happiness both before and after the advent of my present condition, and for the many who, like me, cannot enjoy a full share of life's physical happiness there has got to be another way, another outlet for our excesses. Nobody who lives the life of a vegetable can expect to be happy!

It cannot be denied that happiness is obtained by the manifestation of thought from the mind. First we think about something we wish to do, then our mind tells our body how to do it. I had a problem; as I thought, an unsurmountable problem. I had an active mind but no muscle below the neck would answer the call. How could I possibly find happiness with a combination such as this? I could find no answer, but God did. Weeks of prayer were not wasted. I finally got the help that has given me the happiness I needed also. Happiness, not by creating things by hand — as was my wont in my days of normal life — but happiness by putting my creative thoughts to paper. With the aid of an electric typewriter that has a Possum attachment, I suck and puff on a mouthpiece to a code. To type an 'A' I suck twice, the typewriter bleeps four times, then I puff once. To type a 'B' I suck three times, the typewriter bleeps three times, then I puff once; and so on. I spend many absorbing hours, satisfying and happy hours composing articles and short stories. God pointed out and helped me to develop a talent I didn't even know existed in me. He compensated me for the loss of my physical enjoyment with another source of happiness: satisfaction of the mind, for, although not all of my work is accepted for publication, a large proportion of it does find its way to the printers.

I will never make a fortune juggling with the words of our English language, but frustration goaded me into what I thought was a flight of fancy into the world of writing. When I look back at the long hours of an idle mind, I felt that never again would I have a use for that average intelligence that God gave me. But adversity is the truth to ability; none of us knows our capability until we are pushed by circumstance. And then we





# In Brief...

● At Lymington (Hants) Joint Branch's autumn jumble sale, Mervyn Bellringer 'rang the bell' when he found in the pocket of a pair of trousers a sum of money which proved to be greater than the total takings of the sale! Trousers (and money) are now lodged at the local police station. If they are unclaimed, Toc H will have the right to the money as 'treasurer trove' (or 'trouser trove'?).



● Camborne (Cornwall) Joint Branch's eighth annual Floral Art Show was a resounding success. It was held on a glorious summer day, the hall was a sea of colour and the warmth of friendship inside matched the sunshine outside. This show — always of very high standard — has become a 'calendar' event in West Cornwall. This year, more than £250 was raised: the proceeds were shared, part going towards providing teaching aids for deaf children and the remainder to provide holidays for the disabled.

● The Secretary of Harlow (Essex) Joint Branch tells us that, despite ups and downs, they are still in existence and busy at ensuring that their good local work continues. They have recently joined the town's liaison committee of service groups which meets monthly to share out tasks and to avoid clashes. For example, the Lions have now taken over the local 'flashing lights' scheme pioneered by Harlow Toc H and CVS gave extra help this year in manning the lost child tent at the Harlow Show. Conversely Toc H supplied tea and coffee to the police in the neighbouring tent at the Show and made some good friends. 'A young policewoman — very pretty — thought we were an outfit called 'Tosh': she now knows we are just the opposite!'

find one of the unknown gifts that I believe is endowed to each of us.

In general we humans are, by nature, a lazy lot. We like to sit around to watch and listen to entertainment that is made or performed by others. Now, more than ever, we are allowing prefabricated amusement gradually to take away our self made happiness; the satisfaction of something attempted, something done! The difference between these two forms of pastime can be measured only by the individual. But give that gift that lies within you a chance. Find it; practice and improve its quality; and you will find, as I do, everlasting happiness in trying to reach that ever elusive target: Perfection Absolute.



● Stowmarket (Suffolk) Women's Branch recently took a party of the disabled and housebound on a coach tour taking in Sandringham and Hunstanton, via Thetford Chase and the Norfolk lavender fields. Hunstanton's Men's and Women's Branches produced a generous tea for the whole party in a church hall. When it was noticed that the hall contained a piano, one lady in the party (aged over 90!) took over and played for a sing-song! 'Thank God', says Stowmarket's Secretary, 'for this wonderful Movement and for the happiness we are able to give to others'.

● Newsome (W Yorks) Men's Branch write: 'In one recent month our Branch has known the extremes of happiness and sadness. We were saddened by the death of Edgar Taylor — a loyal and hard working member for 14 years... In the same month we were greatly heartened by a concert in the parish church given by the Honley Male Voice Choir when some 250 people enjoyed singing of the very highest standard. This choir has a good reputation in the music world for their wide repertoire and very high standard. Our Branch was fortunate indeed to get them... as their engagement list is long and many bookings have to be turned down'.

● Conwy (Gwynedd) Men's Branch once more had a highly successful Flag Week collection this year, raising altogether some £430 — £70 more than last year's record collection. This was a fine achievement for the small number of collectors, drawn mainly from the Conwy and Deganwy Branch, all of whom worked very hard all week.



● In August, the Minister of State for the Disabled announced a new award scheme to run for the rest of this International Year of Disabled People. Awards with prizes of £1,000 are to be made for the most interesting projects to enhance the value of life for people suffering from any form of disability. The scheme is open to all national, regional and local voluntary organisations for projects organised since 1978 either independently or in association with other bodies. Projects solely concerned with employment, housing or education are excluded. Entry forms and copies of the rules are available from: IYDP, Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU.

# Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during August and September:

- 2 — Bramley (j), Chard (m), Dolgellau (m), Dundee (j) Group Higham Ferrers (w), Selkirk (m), Twydall (j)
- 1 — Cardiff (j), Deal & Walmer (j) Griffithstown (m), Leicester (w) Nottingham City (m), Strode Park & Herne (j), South Staffs and Wulfrun District, Tubby's Poperinge (j) Group

A warm welcome to 22 new members

● Medway and Sheppey District have asked us to pass on their warm congratulations to Frank and Elsie Austin who celebrated their golden wedding in August. Both of them were staunch Toc H members in Kent over many years and are now Builders. We join with all the District members in wishing Frank and Elsie many more happy years together.

● The Norfolk Activities Committee has been very busy again this year. From one of their many projects — a children's camp — an interesting story has emerged. Among the volunteers were three CPOs from HMS Norfolk. Before the camp, two of these undertook a 140 mile sponsored walk from Hull to Sandringham via the new Humber Bridge, agreeing that part of the proceeds would go to Toc H projects in Norfolk. In September, the leader and co-leader of the children's camp were invited to a lunchtime presentation on board HMS Norfolk in Portsmouth Harbour. We hope to be able to print pictures of the presentation in a future issue.

● In July, Oldham (Lancs) Women's Branch celebrated their 47th birthday. They vary the pattern of their birthday celebrations each year and on this occasion visited Willow House — a hostel for mentally handicapped adults with which they have had contact for a number of years. The hostel provided a buffet supper and a Branch member produced a birthday cake suitably iced in red, white and blue — it was Royal Wedding time! Sweets and prizes were donated by the Branch who also presented a book on the Royal Wedding for the residents' library. There were games, dancing and singing, many of the residents volunteering solo items and duets. We were delighted to hear of this unusual and outgoing celebration of something we all too often hug to ourselves. Well done, Oldham!



# From the Director

by Ken Prideaux-Brune



I don't quite know why, but I've been thinking in the last day or two about the importance of a group of people living together as part of their Toc H experience. I suppose these thoughts have come partly because I've just returned from a weekend at Cuddesdon. Partly as a result of reading David Gibson's article on Marks in the last issue of *Point Three*. Partly because I'm off shortly to share in the opening of John Perkins House, the new community house in Nottingham. And partly because I've just been reading the reports of two of the Review Teams asked to assist with the development of our Marks and residential centres.

Most of us will never have the opportunity of living in a Toc H Mark or community house. Many members are

unable to enjoy the briefer residential experience offered by a weekend at Cuddesdon, Alison House, Port Penrhyn, Colsterdale, Weirside or the Poacher's Den or by a residential project. And yet I think that those of us who have lived as a part of a Toc H group, even if only for a weekend, have found this to be one of the most significant and valuable experiences we have enjoyed in Toc H. The give and take, the learning to get alongside people quite different from ourselves, that takes place within a Branch happens in a more intense way on a residential weekend or week simply because people are together for a longer continuous period. Not all of us for practical reasons can have this experience — but if you haven't, do see whether you couldn't arrange to give it a try — but Toc H would be very much the poorer if these opportunities were not open to us. What applies to these comparatively short term experiences applies even more to the longer term experience of living in a Mark.

As David Gibson stressed last month, service to the community is part of the purpose of Marks, but not the most important part. Far more important is the provision of 'a meeting place for many different backgrounds, cultures and classes' and all that flows from that in the growth of individuals 'in social, emotional and spiritual terms'. This is something which is intangible and difficult to assess but the Review Teams which have been looking at the London Marks and at the Birmingham Centre recognised this as the most important objective and commented on the family atmosphere and sense of welcome which each house possesses.

The recognition of this objective

underlies the importance of attracting a real mixture of people to live in our Marks. One disturbing fact which emerges from what is basically a very encouraging report on the three London Marks is that they don't find it easy to keep their houses full. That has obvious economic consequences but it has the very much more serious result that we are unable to do the kind of selection process that will ensure the mixture for which we are looking. It's not clear whether this is simply due to poor publicity or whether it means that the accommodation we offer is inadequate. Whichever the problem turns out to be it will need to be tackled if the Marks are to continue to have a significant impact on the lives of those who live in them.

The Birmingham Centre was an attempt to develop a very much smaller residential community — just five people instead of the 30 or so in a Mark. It is encouraging that the Review Team concerned has submitted a glowing report, describing the Centre as an expression of Toc H of which all of us can be proud. This is particularly encouraging coming as it does at the moment when we are just about to launch a second small residential community, John Perkins House in Nottingham.

It is all too easy to see Marks, or for that matter projects, as living in a quite separate compartment, remote from the rest of the Toc H family. In fact a clear common thread runs through all expressions of Toc H, residential or non-residential. That common thread is the attempt to weld a diverse group of people into a tolerant, caring and loving family.



Photo: Associated Kent Newspapers



Thanet District Chairman Fred Cooper presents a cheque to the housemother of Lourdes House. Toc H in Thanet has watched with care and interest the development of this holiday home for families with handicapped children since its opening four years ago and have already given the house three wall clocks, a teamaker and two ball games. (See full story in *Point Three*, July and December 1977).



# PROJECTS 1981

## WHAT IS A PROJECT?

by Judith F Rice

At the end of another summer with Toc H, I found myself asking what exactly a project is. The answer was at the same time simple and complex, like all the best answers. It is that a project is an expression of Toc H. And Toc H? ... is a 'mixture of men' which attempts in ways both small and large to 'break down barriers'. Some of these barriers are within society, but the greatest of all are within the individual. In order to help people, Toc H must never be shackled by rigid structures. Just as Branches and projects should be allowed to develop on their own lines as different expressions of the Movement, so too rigid a definition of a project should be avoided.

My project this summer – in a holiday home for handicapped children in South Wales – prompted me to much thought as to what the term covers, since in some ways it was so different from others I had been on. Like one other volunteer on this project, my first had been of the 'conservation type'; and like him my whole view had inevitably been deeply coloured by that experience. In these projects, the work is manual, and therefore, as it were, 'inanimate'. The

volunteers are together most of the time and contact with outsiders is minimal. The keynotes are intensity and introversion of the group. The experience of being part of that overrides the work done, though plenty is achieved and the task is never forgotten.

My second project was in a Cheshire Home where there had been Toc H projects for so many years that they were almost part of the furniture. It was so established that it was effortless to run. We worked on a system of shifts, but barely noticed it. We were all together for much of our stay, on trips with the residents or in shared free time. Because of the nature of the 'work' we were less introverted. There were three groups to deal with – volunteers, staff and residents – and hence a far more disparate bunch of individuals. There were the special problems and marvels of the disabled to discover and consider. The result was what one might term 'mixed intensity'.

My project this year was similar in structure to this last, but differed in several ways from my previous experiences. Part of the explanation for this is of course in the changes within myself over the past three years and my interpretation is therefore highly subjective. But I know from conversation and observation that that is not the whole tale. To begin with, this project was in its first year, and so it had none of the effortlessness of the last. The Home had

no idea of what to expect, and we knew little of how they really worked. Hence they did not make the best possible use of us, and as a group we had fewer trips out with the residents and less free time together. The threefold involvement which I mentioned before, this time proved very strong. Some volunteers preferred to give most time to the disabled guests and in fact we took three who were roughly of our own age out with us when we had a day off. For everyone, the experience of spending so much time with children and adolescents with varying degrees of disability, was probably the overriding one of the project. Finally, the group of volunteers was quite varied and tended to be split – though not, I am thankful to say, with any animosity. It was simply that some preferred to be independent or to devote most of their energies to the people in the Home. Once this had settled into a pattern, it worked well enough. In the end, it is the choice of the individual as to how much he or she participates in the group, but I am convinced that not to join in is to miss a crucial element of a project. I am equally convinced that there need be no conflict between individuality, or between a preference for 'one-to-one' relationships and full commitment to and enjoyment of a wider circle. What I think of as the 'project atmosphere' did at last appear, but it was towards the end, and it did not include the whole group.

The differences, then, were obvious – what were the constants? In each, I learnt many lessons about people and about myself; and I had many regrets for failing to take advantage of unique opportunities, and for the misplaced worry and timidity which hampers activity. In each, I gained more than I could have foreseen, and found a warm and deeply re-assuring fellowship. All these are features of Toc H in any manifestation. The special aspect of a project, one which is common to them all, is that it brings together for a concentrated period of time a group of people, some or all of whom have never met, to share an experience and a life-style which to all of them is in some way new. As a result, some barriers come crashing down and others are undermined. Sometimes the effects are obvious: sometimes, rarely, they seem conspicuous by their absence. But since we cannot see into the heart of a man, we can never say that a project has failed. The mixture may slowly be doing its work within.



*Sevenoaks District mounted an adventure holiday camp for 28 boys from Kent and Lewisham at Hall's Green Centre, Weald. It was a great success and Toc H express their gratitude to the many local and national groups and associations who helped with funds and equipment and in a host of other ways. The boys had a varied and very active variety of experiences – including weather patterns which ranged from blazing heat to tropical storm! The project was led by Shelagh Moulder, supported by 11 volunteers from as far apart as Bristol and Belgium and local Branch members.*



# PROJECTS 1981

continued



One of 1981's earliest projects – refurbishing the Marches District chalet at Clarach Bay.

Photos: John Dickson

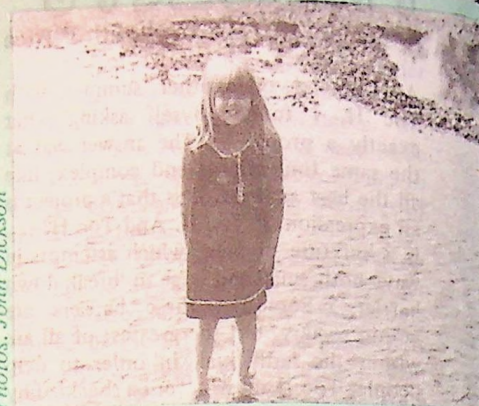


Photo: Deriv Evening Telegraph

Breakfast under canvas on the annual Toc H Camp at Osmaston.



Photo: Robin Farmer

Toc H volunteers clear a river bank near Biggleswade. They came from all over England and one of them travelled from Germany for the project.



Photo: Evening Echo, Bournemouth

A group of Toc H volunteers – leaders Philip Douche and Sue Richards – took a holiday show ('Seaweed') on the road in Wessex, finishing their tour at Sopley's Vietnamese Reception Centre.



Photos: Graham Catherall



Photos: Gill Westwood

Party time on the last evening of the Merseyside children's camp. The camp is in Saughall and the children are from Liverpool – selected by Toc H members with assistance from local clergy and from the RC Cathedral.



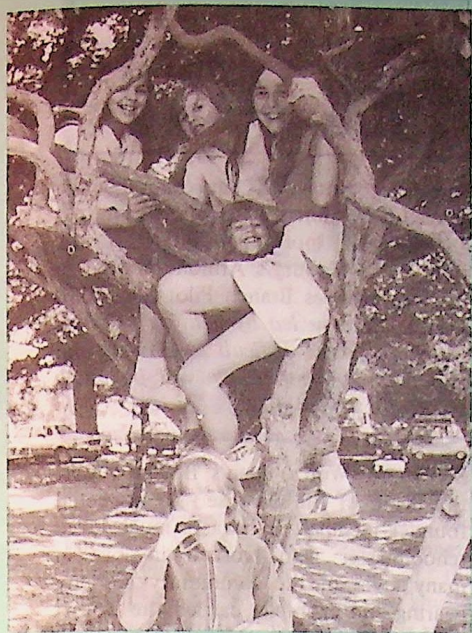


Photo: Evening Echo, Southend

Part of an energetic fortnight's Southampton playscheme for 50 children was a day trip into the New Forest.



Some of the youngsters at this year's SE Essex Camp.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER PROJECTS?

by Helen Meads

The larger part of Toc H consists of people who are, not to put too fine a point on it, old. They work (and play) together in Branches of Toc H, and there can be no doubt that they do sterling work and enjoy themselves whilst they are doing it, but not every project volunteer, or person who has been (but no longer can be) a project volunteer finds these Branches the sort of medium through which they want to continue their contact with Toc H. The unfortunate part of this is that more often than not these younger people do not do anything more with Toc H: they do not fit into an existing niche so do not fit in at all.

It seems to be that if three or more volunteers, or former volunteers, get together then fairly soon there can be a thriving local group, which can then take in people who have done nothing with Toc H before. This has happened in Southampton, and more recently in Birmingham. In Birmingham, three former volunteers decided severally and then jointly, that a group would be a good idea. There are now between eight and a dozen of us. We meet once every three to five weeks in each other's home for something to eat and drink and, most important of all, to discuss whatever's going on.

We have a regular Thursday night helping out at the Night Shelter for Homeless Men, and every fourth Tuesday in the month we entertain a group of old people who live in the tower blocks in the City

Centre. We talk about doing other things: like going away together for a week; like taking a family where parents are disabled to the seaside because the children have never seen the sea. We spent a weekend together in the Lake District last Autumn. We say that when we hit upon an idea we all agree on, we will organise a local project ourselves.

Belonging to this particular Toc H Group means that each of us can do some voluntary work without being committed individually to every Thursday, or fourth Tuesday night. We accept a group responsibility. So two or three of us will always go along, but not always the same two or three. One member of the group has been nominated to be responsible to liaise with the Night Shelter and another organises the fourth Tuesdays. Other than that we have no organisation: that would not suit every group and sometimes we wonder if it is really working, but we do manage to meet our regular commitments and we continue to meet one another. We do also have some very informal contact with the Birmingham District Branch.

What we do in Birmingham is just what we do in Birmingham. What we can say, though, is that our experience is that the initiative rests with the volunteers, or former volunteers, to do something themselves.

So what happens after projects is what you make happen after projects.



Photos: Gill Westwood

It's all in the day's work! Volunteers - some from overseas - helped in the S Wales Heritage Coast Project.



# We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

## In June

Isobel Johnson (Southport)  
William Shepherd (Biggleswade)

## In July

Bessie E Bagnall (Hayes)  
Dorothy K Barnard (Stowmarket)  
George A C Norris (Shoreham)

## In August

Beryl E Evans (Weston-Super-Mare)  
Elizabeth G Gay (Okehampton)  
George W V James (Earley)  
Henry E Mayhew (Ipswich)  
Edgar Taylor (Newsome)

## In September

Carrie Morgan (Chirk)  
John H Tully (Margate)



'We were deeply shocked in SE Kent to hear that Oscar 'Bright' Adams had died suddenly on 5 July at the age of 57. Though Bright was heavily involved in other charities, Toc H was a way of life for him. For many years he served on the old Area Team and on his District Team and for five years he was our Central Councillor. Of his many Toc H roles, his light shone brightest as Pilot . . . and he will long be remembered for that. Some two years ago Bright moved to another area and he had a new Toc H group of men and women meeting regularly in his house within a very short time. That was a measure of what Toc H meant to him.'

HJ

Jack Tully died suddenly in August at the age of 71. Jack met Toc H during the last war and joined Margate Branch when it was re-formed in 1946. He held Branch office but otherwise preferred the role of quiet, backroom boy. He was a good Church man and a Rotarian and had served as an inspector in the Special Constabulary. His Branch write to tell us how much they miss him.

Fred Moseley, Chairman and Treasurer of Potters Bar & Little Heath Joint Branch, died in May of a heart attack. The wide ranging impact Fred had made in the community was indicated at his memorial service in the local United Reformed Church. In attendance were the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors, representatives from the French and German towns twinned with Potters Bar, members of the British Red Cross and of the Elderly Disabled Club, most of the local members of Toc H and large numbers of Potters Bar residents.

Penzance Women's Branch have recently suffered the deaths of three of their members - Emily Beer, a founder member of the first Penzance Women's Branch; Mary Beard, a Branch member for the past 15 years; and Una Brasher, originally of Woking, then of St Ives, a founder member and Pilot of Hayle Branch and for several years Secretary of Penzance. Una died after a very long illness borne with great fortitude.

Albert 'Busty' Squance died in Victoria, Australia, in July. Busty joined Toc H in India while serving as a regular soldier and for some time helped man the highly valued Lumley Canteen for ORs. Having served his time, he settled in Exeter, was employed in the old Ministry of Labour's Disablement Section and joined Exeter Branch. When he lost his wife, Busty went to Australia, joined the nearest Toc H Branch, and at once became involved in the 'Flashing Light' Scheme. During the past two or three years, he underwent a series of operations and suffered considerable pain and discomfort. Peter Danmers writes: 'His Toc H outlook . . . was an eye-opener to many and earned him great respect . . . A happy fighter has passed our way and we give thanks for him.'

Camborne (Cornwall) Joint Branch lost a staunch member of long standing with the recent death of Leslie James Thomas at the age of 78. He was a former Branch Chairman and Central Councillor and had also served both as Chairman and Pilot of Looe Men's Branch.

Thurrock (Essex) Joint Branch write to tell us of the death in an ambulance accident of Stanley Price - a founder member of Grays Branch - at the age of 83. Stanley was an untiring community worker, serving at different times as Borough Councillor, Justice of the Peace, Vice-President of the Scouts and a

member of Rotary. As part of his devoted work for Missions to Seamen, we are told that he raised more than £40,000 for the building of Tilbury's Athlone House. In his long spell as Branch Pilot (nearly 30 years), 'Stanley led by a living example which we found difficult to emulate and impossible to ignore. We will be much poorer for his passing'.

Stourport (Worcs) Men's Branch report the death of Bill Barwise - a respected founder member. Bill was a much loved schoolmaster who worked in love in many areas of the community and, by bearing and example, carried the Toc H spirit which meant so much to him into every aspect of his life and work. He will be sadly missed by the whole community.

Bakewell (Derbys) Joint Branch lost a fine Branch officer when Leon Chandler died suddenly on 22 July. Leon was also a Central Councillor and he gave unstintingly of his time and great talents to spread the spirit of Toc H - often creating his own opportunities. Bakewell's Medway Community Centre owes much to his pioneering work. 'Leon was a shining example', says Bakewell's Pilot, 'of a man who, with gallant and high hearted happiness, worked for the Kingdom of God in the wills of men'.

In June, we published an article entitled 'The Four Points', based on discussions between Mrs E Kemp, Sudbury's oldest member, and a fellow resident in her old people's home. By the time the article appeared in print, 'Kempy' had died, at the age of 91. Her Branch reports that she was 'alert to the last, taking a keen interest in the activities of the Branch and of individual members, all of which were reported to her weekly'.

We give thanks for their lives



The NE has been given yet another caravan at Whitley Bay to provide holidays for disabled people and their families. Again, this was a gift from Jimmy Savile who spent his childhood holidays there with his uncle and aunt, Mr and Mrs Alf Brightwell. This last caravan, given in memory of the Brightwells, was handed over by Jimmy's cousin, Paul Brightwell, and his wife.



# Toc H 'Marks' in London

## -The Future

by David Gibson

In last month's article, I argued that by bringing together people who are able to rub the rough edges off each other, the London Marks have an intimate connection with the origins of the Movement. Their success is not always obvious or brilliant, but the idea is right, and the execution lacking nothing in enthusiasm. A visit to any of the houses should dispel any doubts that they are equal to the job demanded.

If we are to look forward to the future, we must survey the problems of the past and present, and because many of these are organisational problems, they may sound somewhat technical to the uninitiated. The facts are that more than once a Mark which should have survived has been closed because of a combination of a poor warden and disinterested Management Team. Wardens and volunteers are still over worked, leading to disillusion among colleagues, and a disruptively high turnover of staff. Responsibility for decision making is hard to locate and once located, harder to activate. At all levels, too much intricate 'politicking' takes the place of long term planning.

In recent months, we have had wardens who are interested and far sighted enough to see the problems and suggest solutions. A document produced by a London Marks wardens meeting in July expressed no confidence in the present structure's ability to regenerate the Marks in a radical way. Important decisions, they said, were being made by committees

which were basically attuned to the needs of Branches. Forward planning was impossible, and a new umbrella organisation needed urgently.

Now, committee bashing is a universal sport which we all enjoy, and should be treated with caution. But it does seem to me that while any democratic organisation needs a system of checks and balances, Toc H has developed an initiative cramping series of unwieldy committees which constantly fudge the issue, and defer the decision. Something, as they say, needs to be done if we are to build a secure future for the houses.

In an ideal world, I'd personally like to see a London Marks Trust running the houses on a break even basis, largely independent of Wendover. While HQ would be involved in the setting up and initial funding of such a venture, the Trust would eventually aim to be self supporting. Each house would retain its own distinct character, but by acting as a group they would benefit from financial economies of scale, and the greater interchange of ideas and information. By virtue of a management which was easily accessible and observable, everyday efficiency would be improved, leaving more time available for long term planning and development. Any future system would need to have a housing officer, who would be able to negotiate state and municipal grants to providers of housing — in the past, such grants have not been taken advantage of.

As a means of working towards this ideal, there needs to be a Marks Committee, answerable to the Central Executive Committee, which would be able to bypass the various committees at Wendover, and be able to give local volunteer management teams, and wardens, a swift answer to queries and ideas. At present, the interested local people who run the houses on a day to day basis, need a detailed knowledge of Toc H procedure to get plans approved.

In the meantime, the best way of using the present structure is by centralising administration at Wendover. The Marks management team would then advise Wendover directly of its needs and problems, and the appropriate committee (or preferably its Secretary as the point of contact) would respond as and when called upon. This would entail much greater collaboration between the professional staff at Wendover and those involved at local level, which would be no bad thing.

The least that is needed in the very near future, is a clear headed and thorough-going review of the possibilities. There has recently been much positive talk about the Marks at all levels, and it would be a pity if the impetus were to be allowed to fade away.

Any extension of the Marks is not on the agenda in the current — or foreseeable — economic climate. However, the idea of a 'mini-mark' is worth floating. A mini-mark is envisaged as a Toc H owned house, lived in by about eight ex-residents of a Mark, who would have some commitment to activity in the local community. The precise function would depend on the individuals involved, but the Movement has everything to gain and nothing to lose by such a scheme. People who leave a Mark would remain involved in Toc H work, and the mini-mark would become another local centre for Toc H. It would be difficult for Toc H as a landlord to make a financial loss once the capital had been invested, and a chain of such houses would provide stability, support and even income to Marks and local Branches. Informal groups of ex-residents living in private rented accommodation already provide valuable help for Toc H activity, so that a mini-mark is merely an extension of what already exists.

For the moment, the goal must be to restructure the present system, so that local initiatives can take their place in a well run professional organisation. Any future plans will depend on the personnel available, but there are many people with vision coming into the Movement through Marks who have the enthusiasm to see the Marks through to a bright and financially sound future.







Adrian Dudman

Photo: Scott Shaw

# From the General Secretary



Guisborough (Cleveland) Joint Branch have for some years run a Friday lunch club for housebound heart/stroke patients, collecting them and returning them, to their homes. The picture was taken during the club's annual outing to Knaresborough Castle.

## Tomorrow

by Revd Richard Fox

He was going to be all that he wanted to be —

to-morrow.

There'd be nobody kinder or braver than he —

to-morrow.

A friend who was troubled and weary, he knew

Would be glad of a lift — he needed it, too;

He'd call on him, just to see what he could do —

to-morrow.

Each morning he stacked up the letters he'd write —

to-morrow.

And thought of the folk he would fill with delight —

to-morrow.

It was too bad, indeed, he was busy today

And hadn't a moment to stop on his way —

'I'll give more of my time to others', he'd say —

to-morrow.

The greatest of workers this man would have been —

to-morrow.

The world would have known him had ever he seen —

to-morrow.

But in fact he passed over and faded from view

And all that he left here when living was through

Was the mountain of things he intended to do —

to-morrow!

AED

I want to take this opportunity of telling you about staff changes that have taken place so far this year — in the Regions, in Germany and at Wendover.

**January** — On New Year's Day, Anne Evans joined the team at Cuddesdon House as catering manager. Later in the month, Jayne Scott arrived at Wendover to take over from Wilma Anic as Print Room Supervisor. Wilma left to resume her career as a physiotherapist at Stoke Mandeville.

**April** — Philip Greaves, our LTV in Scarborough, moved on to an appointment in a home for mentally handicapped children.

**May** — Mike Angus became Port Penrhyn's Development Officer — an important post that had been unmanned since Ian Taylor left to take a degree course at London University. Shortly afterwards, Tony Austin, our maintenance man at Port Penrhyn, moved to an appointment outside Toc H. At the end of the month, Properties Secretary Jim Baverstock retired. Jim had served for a year beyond his normal retirement date to see us through a difficult period: he was not replaced, his work being absorbed elsewhere at Wendover. In BAOR, Peter Robinson left our Berlin Club to take up an appointment at Wesley House and Andrew Sparshott returned to the UK to get married.

**June** — In mid-June, we welcomed Eddie Godfrey to Wendover as Finance and Properties Secretary. David George left the Finance Department and George Barnett took up his new appointment as Chief Accountant.

**July** — David Hancock became assistant warden of our Berlin Club.

**August** — Port Penrhyn returned to full strength with the appointment of Peter Marshall as assistant instructor. At the end of the month, Mike McCabe, who had been working with George Lee in Birmingham, ended his LTV term with us: he continues to live at the Birmingham Centre while pursuing his studies at Birmingham University.

**September** — At the start of the month, Mike Giddings, Warden of Prideaux House (Mark 3) left our employment and Sue Cumming, Mid-Eastern Region, started a sabbatical year to be devoted to full time theological studies. At the end of the month, David Watson, Assistant Warden at 42 Trinity Square, left to start a new career in personnel management. LTV Gill Taylor (Mark 3) left during the month to start a Polytechnic course in social studies: Gill had spent a challenging and demanding year with us working on community projects in Hackney. Carol Clarke and Gill Moore, who had been working with Huw Gibbs in N Wales under the STEP Scheme, both completed their time at the end of September. Larry Wilmot (NE Region) and Susan Perry (Port Penrhyn) both finished their three months work with us in September: Larry had been working on projects and Susan kindly helped us out of a difficult local situation at very short notice.

I know that you will want to join me in welcoming the new members of the family, and in giving our warm thanks to those who have left us — some after years of devoted service.



Photo: Evening Leader

Betty Jones (Mold, Clwyd) persuaded neighbours to join her in the Region's sponsored 'knit-in'. They raised £28 and completed a blanket for Pannikampatti.



# Open Forum

## The Use of our Resources

The debate was launched with the issue in August of a cassette recording some of the differing views of CEC members. This cassette went to all Branches, Central Councillors and staff. You were asked to discuss the tape and let your Central Councillor know your views before the Council meeting on 7 November. Alternatively – or as well – we suggested that you might write to the Director who undertook to ensure that Council were aware of your views. Since then we have had a large number of letters – short and long – from Branches and individual members across the country. At the time of writing, these are still coming in daily. All the points made in these letters will be put to Council. Meanwhile, extracts from a few of them are printed on this page.

– Editor

As I hold our Movement very dear, and feel that its contribution is vital to our national spiritual and social well being I want to send herewith a personal cheque of £20 which DV under Covenant I will send for the full period of seven years...

With every good wish to the officers at HQ.

Cornwall

... While risks like these can be afforded in times of prosperity, in days like the present, I suggest for the most part we should limit our spending to projects, jobs, schemes, extension and Branch support which can reasonably be expected, after examination of past methods and results, to lead to an increase in membership of Toc H (and thus increase income) or produce a lasting effect (a transmission of enthusiasm) in the direction of the Main Resolution and the Four Points.

To this end I would suggest that the Central Executive sets up a Committee comprising members of the widest experience having personal knowledge of all types and expression of the Movement, certainly some with a reputation for contact with success in Branches, whose terms of reference would be along the lines of my previous paragraph. Future expenditure be limited to their successes, or such of them as the CEC may select...

Kent

Two main points emerged in our Branch discussion: a. for cutting down on staff and b. for more care in the spending in administration.

a. We felt that all paid staff should have to justify their salaries and wondered how often they report on their 'jobs' and the outcome of same. Staff should be used for the help and guidance of new, young members: they are not needed for Branches with older members, except in emergencies.

b. Too much is spent on printing, postage, circulars etc: one copy of this tape could have been sent to all the Branches in our area.

Why was it felt necessary to take on the added expense of new Regional offices during the present crisis?

If we expect members to pay more, we shall attract less members. After all, most of us are in the same position as Toc H and we have to 'cut the coat according to the cloth'. Would it be more effective to go back to a yearly subscription for all in place of 'self assessment'?

Hampshire

The reduction of staff will not enable the Movement to maintain an adequate network of communication, to my mind quite the reverse. There seems to me to be confusion as to what the function of the staff should be. Some would say their job is primarily to get new members, others that their main function is to instil the ideals and spirit of Toc H into those people who as yet have never known the Movement. The responsibility for any growth in membership must and should come from the Branches. Facilities are available for training the membership but how many take the opportunity of training!

I also stress that there would be no financial crisis if we gave to Toc H in proportion to our other spending and £12 per year per member is not outrageous in these days. The solution of the problem we are facing lies more in the hands of the membership than it does of the staff. So often we do so much for other people we are in danger of neglecting the needs of our own Family.

There is no easy answer to the problem but I would suggest an urgent appeal to the membership be made in accordance with (a) on page 11 of the Annual Report.

Derbyshire

... We think that Toc H should endeavour to live within its means and not spend its capital. There must be ways in which economies can be made even if it means cutting staff...

Sussex

... The best thing is to increase income and cut expenditure... If staff numbers are not reduced, what about a voluntary cut of 10% in staff salaries? I think we should also increase our charges – eg put up *Point Three* to 15p.

If expenditure is tackled effectively, I am sure the members will respond. If all our members gave £25, then Toc H would have what it needs. Enclosed is my £25, so you have only to ask the other 10,460 for theirs!

Nottinghamshire

... I have heard the tape re finances and the future of the Movement. I think Adrian has got it right, if only we can put his words into practice. Perhaps there could be more streamlining of the paper work, and members must rely less on staff. The field staff should be free to pioneer, or to follow on worthwhile ideas of members, who are prepared to carry out the suggested idea after some initial help by staff.

Is the Staff Conference fully justified? Of course the staff need to meet together to exchange ideas, support each other, etc, but could they not perhaps stay one day extra at Swanwick after Central Council, for example? Also, they meet some colleagues in staff clumps so do they also need the four/five days at Hengrave as well?

Northamptonshire

... In reply to your other points, I often wonder whether 'self assessment' and the reasons why our subs are needed are talked about enough to people coming into the Movement, either as fully initiated members or young people in TAG groups who do not always become members. It bothers me at times how much people are prepared to take out of the Movement and do not put anything or very little into it in the way of finance. There is also the vexed question of how much is raised for other organisations before our own. I learned in my early days of membership that we weren't a money raising body for other organisations but there to give practical help. How easy it is to give a donation!

I don't think we can go on spending money we haven't coming in: we wouldn't do this with our own households so why do it in Toc H? So, if we haven't money to pay staff then we do without them and depend more on the membership. If the membership are not prepared to do more then they are not Toc H Members.

Cleveland



# bitter and sweet

by Huw Gibbs

*'For while I was in sin, it seemed to me too bitter a thing to see lepers, but the Lord Himself led me amongst them and I shewed compassion to them. And what before had seemed bitter was changed into sweetness of soul and body.'*

When Alan Paton adapted the prayer of St Francis for our Ceremony of Light, we took a bold step forward towards a new understanding of love. While we stand together in darkness, watching the persistent flicker of Light, the words defy repudiation. But these words can – and often are – ignored afterwards because of their exacting call to obedience.

But suppose that in choosing those words, Alan Paton foresaw a time of crisis when Toc H would have doubts about its future? Then our moment of rededication comes sharply into focus and by our Light we can see our shortcomings. We see immediately that our *disobedience* is preventing us from hearing Christ, so that the Main Resolution has become like dross.

Many of the personal experiences of the founders of the Franciscan Order and of Toc H were similar; so were the actions which sprang from their recognising the Holy Spirit at work among a group of men. The *'joy and gaiety, romantic abandon and carefree chivalry'* of St Francis who called his brothers *'my knights of the round table'* could just as easily have been Tubby describing the first rapturous months at Talbot House, or even Dor Knap. St Francis by kissing the leper yearned only to be a *'herald of the High King'* with no thought for tomorrow. He took St Matthew quite literally – *'provide no silver or copper*

*to fill your purse, no pack for the road, no second coat, no shoes, no stick, the worker earns his keep'*. The simplicity of this approach to service and faith was rewarded by God in ways that neither men could have imagined. Remember Tubby describing his feelings while bathing an open cancerous sore in the surgery of Dr Stansfield, in London's East End, and Alec Paterson's revulsion when encountering a leper prisoner during a visit to Devil's Island; the man had stretched out his hand to say goodbye – *'for a moment, to my shame, I shrank back. Then I said to myself "if you cannot shake hands on this Good Friday evening with a dying leper, how can you hold out your hands on Easter Morning to receive the Bread of Life?"'* Can anybody be surprised that Toc H should become anything else but a world wide Family charged with carrying the Gospel to men through service and fellowship?

The three main things in the Franciscan mode of life – imitation of Christ, the spirit of prayer and the apostolate – are embodied in our Main Resolution. And still men come. St Francis spoke of *'multitudes of men coming to live under the order of holy obedience'*. That same obedience called Toc H men and their families to sell up everything and serve lepers. We sometimes forget too quickly, when romanticising our early days, that Toc H accomplished its greatest work and heaviest recruiting in times of severe hardship and in a world rejecting Christian values.

When Tubby declared that we must *'start where men are'* he took the same path as the saint of whom it was said *'the world is his cloister'*. Down through

the ages the simple fact that men of all backgrounds, rich men and rustics, learned men and able men, have worn the Franciscan habit, or joyfully accepted the implications of *'mixture'*, has been a constant and undeniable sermon to humanity. Obedience set out from God and found Him everywhere. Neither men, nor their creations were intended by God for contemplation. They are destined for action. Love of God is made to prove itself by love of men.

We have to relearn the essential truth, known to both Francis and Tubby that, before we can understand worship, we must understand fellowship. Not the shallow and unchallenged variety of like minded people, but the steel like strands of love bound together in the furnace of risks, controversy and fear. *'It has been said, wrote Tubby "that three things marked the early Church – cheerfulness, courage and trouble – these are still the distinguishing marks of any fellowship which has the Holy Spirit to guide it". "The bitter and the sweet" of which St Francis spoke.*

The apostolate which St Francis had before his eyes was the simple one of service to his fellow men, as well as preaching. What he, and Tubby, emphasised above all was preaching *by example*. The life of any friar, or Toc H member, should be their greatest sermon.

Those of us who were privileged to live with Tubby on Tower Hill, can cherish those private moments when we saw his astonishing insights into human behaviour. He knew what made men tick. A remark here, a squeezed hand there, or a long period when you knew that his



*This summer, Southport (Merseyside) Joint Branch had their first go at entering a float in the town's annual Charity Carnival. They found it hard work but hilarious and rewarding. Helped by Regional staff and members from other parts of Merseyside, they worked hectically to dress a 20ft lorry while also running a Toc H stall as part of the Carnival. They made the procession in the end and received a donation of £100 from the Carnival Committee – a figure almost doubled by their stall and street collection takings.*



attention was totally yours because he had sensed you were in trouble. When St Francis went out to preach, accompanied by a novice, they walked the streets, but instead of preaching the saint returned home. *'But what about the sermon?'* inquired the novice. St Francis left him to understand that it had been preached by their demeanour and concern for those they had met on the way.

Another remarkable similarity is that both Movements experienced their great crisis after half a century of development. It is scarcely an exaggeration that, had it not been for the Church, the Franciscans would have disintegrated within 50 years.

There were, and still are, many factions each declaring itself closer to the Rule of 1219. Our own present dilemma centres around exactly the same type of issues – a return to basics. At the close of this year's staff conference in Hengrave Hall, during the communion, that calling could be felt by everybody most strongly. Love is speaking to this Movement today.

Like many great Movements we have settled down and become an institution. We have discarded danger for mediocrity. What binds us is fear and not fellowship. The excuse for our inactivity is often lack of finance whereas what we really lack is faith. Sadly, this seems to be the inevitable pattern of human endeavour. But it is precisely at this point that the Holy Spirit speaks to us and we must be ready to listen and obey. Hubert Secretan described Toc H as *'trying to build up a fellowship of people naturally so discordant, so discrepant that without God the thing would fight itself to pieces. We have burned our boats'*.

I personally believe that financial crisis is not the time to limit our vision. A Madison Avenue advertising executive put it another way. *'When you hit the depression, sharpen your black pencil and not your red one'*. In much the same way

St Francis once cried out *'Let us sing the praises of Lady Poverty, who has delivered us from the burden of riches'*.

Just as we claim to *'Love Widely'* so love is the central focus of Franciscan spirituality. The cult of poverty was intended to remove all obstacles that might prevent the full glow of love. The same is to be understood of asceticism in the Franciscan life. In the present materialist state of man, some form of asceticism is a necessity for any kind of spiritual revival. It is only by sacrifice of things and self that man fully lives to God.

But danger lies in substituting words for deeds. We are not in good standing if we mouth the words and then shrink from service the moment the room lights come on. In such places our ceremonies become an obscenity. It is only by loving that we embark on the great adventure to win men's souls. It is a journey we are bound to make despite our fear. If we love on the way then the road becomes wider and smoother and we meet inspiring partners. It can only be by our love that we obtain grace, only by our acts that we learn of the cost. It is costly because it is grace, and it is grace because it is costly. This is the burden that Toc H holds out to men and women – nothing else.

*Christ has no body  
now on earth but ours  
No hands but ours,  
No feet but ours.*

*Ours are the eyes  
through which is to look out  
Christ's compassion to the world.  
Ours are the feet  
with which He is to go about  
doing good.  
Ours are the hands  
with which He is to bless men  
now.*

In the atmosphere of Talbot House men truly found God. If the traditions of this

Movement hold any lesson for us, then it must be that. No other explanation will do. But it didn't end there. It grew to become a universal focus for the fellowship and goodwill that men found in the upper room, because it enabled men and women to demonstrate in their lives, by their own actions, something of His courage and His faithfulness. At no time did it depend on money. *'Toc H was reborn in 1919 with a sum of less than £20 and precarious tenure of a fourth floor tenement.'*

Those who seek comfort in the past should take heed. The word 'comfort' originally meant a strengthening to face up to problems and difficulties: it did not mean 'ease'. Take comfort then but take notice also that the cancerous wound and the leper's hand are still there. It doesn't take money to kiss it. It does demand obedience. If we fail in this then we become what Johnnie Macmillan once described as *'the richest corpse in history'*.

*'If men will go the way to death,  
with them we will part company;  
For God will give us all we need  
to cover our necessity.'*

Today, the call is not to despair but to discipleship. Only through sacrifice will our Movement be gradually transformed, just as St Francis was on Mount Alverna, when his wracked body bore the marks of Christ crucified.

Next time 'Light' is called, we should all attach fresh significance to those simple clauses and complete in our minds that prayer of Francis: *'Grant that I may seek not so much to be consoled, as to console; not so much to be understood as to understand; not so much to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life'*.

## More apologies!

Our attention has been drawn to another error on the back page of this year's Annual Report. The name G W Ashfield was unfortunately omitted from the list of Vice-Presidents in column two. We offer our general apologies to all readers and send our particular regrets to Gerry for this omission.



Each year, Swindon and Chippenham Districts provide an outing for disabled children from Burton Hill School. In the picture, the children are getting into position for the Clevedon Carnival.



# Cuddesdon House 1982

Would your Branch/District/Area like to book a weekend at Cuddesdon House next year? Maybe you're afraid it's too late or that you are unable to collect a big enough party? Don't give up yet! Some dates are still available and we are planning to help *small* groups visit the house. If there are five or more of you who would like to spend a weekend with us, and you don't mind spending the time with another group then write or phone David Currant. Try to give two or three alternative dates and say how many you expect to bring. David will then put you in touch with another group or groups and help you fix up a programme.

If you would like to come for a mid-week stay, a much larger selection of dates is available and you should contact David Currant giving your preference.

## Available weekends in 1982

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Jan 1- 3  | May 21-23              |
| " 8-10    | Jun 4- 6               |
| " 15-17   | Aug 27-29              |
| " 29-31   | Oct 1- 3               |
| Feb 12-14 | Oct 1-10               |
| " 19-21   | Oct 15-17              |
| Mar 26-28 | Nov & Dec all weekends |
| May 7- 9  |                        |

## Prices 1982 (inclusive of VAT)

Weekend — £19.00  
 Mon-Fri — £38.00  
 Week — £50.00

Warden:

D A Currant, Cuddesdon House, Wheatley Road, Cuddesdon, Oxford OX9 9HB  
 Tel: 08677 (Wheatley) 2004

*Note: Cuddesdon House is holding an Open Day on Sunday, 20 June 1982*

## Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

**Folkestone.** We offer you that comfort and service you deserve for your holiday. Comfortable rooms fully centrally heated, good home cooking and good fellowship — we're Toc H members of course. Groups, retreats, seminars, parties of ten or more at special rates. Brochure and terms on request. Lil Adams, Claremont Private Hotel, Claremont Road, Folkestone, Kent. Tel: Folkestone (0303) 54897.



**Bruges, Belgium.** Hotel Jacobs, (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietart, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges, 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50 3398 31/32.

**Weymouth** — Bed, breakfast and evening meal. Open all year including Christmas. Winter weekend breaks from £14.50. Weeks from £44. Bar, free parking. Coach parties and children welcome. Mrs J Cole, Kirtleton House, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Telephone: 0305 785296.

**Raise funds quickly, easily.** Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

**Clacton** — 6 berth Toc H Caravan, fully equipped. Excellent site facilities include pool, shops, children's playground and social centre. April/May/June £40 per week, July £45 per week, August £55 per week and September £40 per week. Full details from Mrs M Burgess, 6 Upper Park Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex. Tel: 0255-29428. SAE please.

**Conwy, dinner and B & B.** Weekends, mid-week bookings, ideal for walking, touring, near sea and mountains. Terms £50 per week. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Lllys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, N Wales. Telephone: 049 263 2351.

**To Let** — West Wales Coast. Well equipped cottage. 100 yards sea. Set in 10 acres. Easy access to beaches and near New Quay, Dyfed. Sleeps 8 (cottage - 4, barn - 4). Rates per week: £100 June, July, August, £70 April, May, September, October, £50 November - March. Special rates for lets of over two weeks. Apply to Mrs Jones, The Shop, Llwyndaf Ydd, Llandysul, Dyfed, Wales. Phone: Shop (9 am - 5 pm Monday - Saturday, - 0545-560-623. Home: - 0545-560-538.